



Community Services Block Grant

Information Memorandum | Transmittal No. 2015-6

To: West Virginia Community Services Block Grant Eligible Entities
From: Julie Alston
WV Office of Economic Opportunity
Date: October 1, 2015
Subject: ROMA Implementation Policy - DRAFT V. 1

Purpose:

This policy contains information concerning Results Oriented Management and Accountability, or ROMA, a performance-based initiative designed to preserve the anti-poverty focus of community action and to promote greater effectiveness among WV eligible entities receiving Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) funds. ROMA incorporates the use of outcomes or results into the administration, management and operation of community action agencies.

History of ROMA

ROMA was created in 1994 by an ongoing task force of Federal, state, and local community action officials – the Monitoring and Assessment Task Force (MATF). Based upon principles contained in the Government Performance and Results Act of 1993, ROMA provides a framework for continuous growth and improvement among more than 1000 local community action agencies and a basis for state leadership and assistance toward those ends.

Since 1994, the Community Services Network has been guided by six broad anti-poverty goals established by the MATF:

- Goal 1:** Low-income people become more self-sufficient.
- Goal 2:** The conditions in which low-income people live are improved.
- Goal 3:** Low-income people own a stake in their community.
- Goal 4:** Partnerships among supporters and providers of service to low-income people are achieved.
- Goal 5:** Agencies increase their capacity to achieve results.
- Goal 6:** Low-income people, especially vulnerable populations, achieve their potential by strengthening family and other supportive systems.

To accomplish these goals, local community action agencies have been encouraged to undertake a number of ROMA implementation actions that focus on results-oriented management and results-oriented accountability:

Results-Oriented Management

- Assess poverty needs and conditions within the community;
- Define a clear agency anti-poverty mission for community action and a strategy to address those needs, both immediate and longer term, in the context of existing resources and opportunities in the community;
- Identify specific improvements, or results, to be achieved among low-income people and the community; and

- Organize and implement programs, services, and activities, such as advocacy, within the agency and among “partnering” organizations, to achieve anticipated results.

Results-Oriented Accountability

- Develop and implement strategies to measure and record improvements in the condition of low-income people and the communities in which they live that result from community action intervention;
- Use information about outcomes, or results, among agency tripartite boards and staff to determine the overall effectiveness, inform annual and long-range planning, support agency advocacy, funding, and community partnership activities.

WV ROMA Task Force

OEO and WVCAP are working together as a team to advance ROMA performance-based concepts among local agencies through the establishment of a ROMA Task Force that will focus on efforts to promote on-going training and technical assistance. The ROMA Task Force will consist of Nationally Certified ROMA Trainers and Candidates pursuing certification.

Effective Date:

The policies and procedures outlined in this Information Memorandum will officially go into effect beginning October 1, 2015.